

As you are now well aware, Sinclair Broadcasting has made a corporate decision to force its local affiliates (62 stations in total) to air a "documentary" called "Stolen Honor." The movie is highly critical of Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, specifically his anti-war activities following his return from Vietnam.

I believe the showing of the movie is a partisan abuse of Sinclair's position as a broadcaster on public airwaves. Its timing is calculated to try to affect the outcome of the presidential election and is part of a pattern of partisan activity on Sinclair's part.

Former and current members of the Federal Communications Commission have criticized Sinclair's plans, and ultimately you (the Federal Election Commission) has been asked to determine whether the broadcast is an illegal corporate campaign contribution.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.